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DDI-34-74

4 January 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
THROUGH : Deputy Director for Intelligence *Emp*  
FROM : Director of Current Intelligence  
SUBJECT : Congressional Briefing Service

1. Last month you requested us to set up a system for providing regular substantive briefings to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees. We will be in position to begin this about 1 February.

25X1A 2. I plan to establish in OCI the position of Congressional Support Officer, and to assign [REDACTED] full-time to this position. [REDACTED] is scheduled to return from a year at [REDACTED] early in January. He is an experienced staff officer, an excellent briefer, and a man who can handle authoritatively a wide range of substantive problems. Moreover, he has the chutzpah to hold his own in the Congressional atmosphere. He will be able to brief extemporaneously and to answer questions himself.

25X1A

3. As we understand it, you or the Legislative Counsel will offer this program to the Committee Chairman who will simply inform the members and staffs of the committees that these briefings will be given at a set time on a set day of the week for each committee. They would be handled in low key; the members would be invited to attend if they are interested.

25X1A 4. Each briefing will consist of about twenty minutes on the substantive developments of the week, including such nuggets as new discoveries in the weaponry field, to be given by [REDACTED] and a more detailed briefing of fifteen to twenty minutes on a major development of the week to be given by the Agency's most articulate specialist on the subject at issue. (A sample briefing is attached.) Any questions that neither [REDACTED] nor the specialist briefer can answer will be followed

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up by memorandum. The classification will be "fortified top secret"--that is, photography and SIGINT will be used but not identified as such.

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5. [REDACTED] will also be responsible for staffing routine Congressional substantive queries within the DDI and the production offices of DDS&T. The DCI's appearances and any other briefings given the Congressional committees will be handled according to present procedures by the Legislative Counsel and [REDACTED]

25X1A

6. We hope to make these briefings good enough so that committee members will not want to miss them. If that happens, we should have a growing business. It might develop in several ways: extension to Foreign Relations and Appropriations; daily briefings during crisis periods; occasional longer briefings on important technical topics; daily rounds by [REDACTED] among key staff members to touch base on substantive interests, to some extent relieving Legislative Counsel of this burden.

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7. DDS&T and Legislative Counsel concur in this proposal. Mr. Cary comments "that the regular briefing program could become so popular that it develops problems. I am thinking specifically of possible White House and State Department reaction to a massive CIA briefing program on Capitol Hill. The fact is that members of Congress are not receiving this kind of information from other sources and I think they will clamor to get it if the word gets out. However, if problems do develop, we will just have to resolve them as we go along. I don't think we can solve them this far in advance."

[REDACTED] 25X1A

Richard Lehman  
Director of Current Intelligence

Attachment: a/s

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